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BOOK REVIEWS

IN CHARGE OF

M. E. CAMERON, R.N.

THE AFTERMATH OF BATTLE; WITH THE RED CROSS IN FRANCE. By Edward D. Toland, with a preface by Owen Wister. The Macmillan Company, New York. Price \$1.00.

This book is a chronicle of service rendered by an American in France. In the introduction by Owen Wister we are told that it is "written without art, yet with the effect of high art" which brings the reader into the very scenes of which he writes and makes him part and parcel of their terrific realities.

With a voyage across the Atlantic in the steerage as a preparation for whatever might follow, Mr. Toland begins in a truly democratic spirit. He is at once at home with his fellow passengers, Tom, who played the fiddle in spite of hands terribly calloused by street paving in New York, the little English cook whose mother and sister in England subsisted on her American earnings, the band of young Scots going home to join a Highland regiment, these last he parted with at 1 a.m. after a night of mild conviviality, his friends deprecating the "awful expense" he had been at for their entertainment, an expense, by the way, of three shillings!

The book proper is a record of the first six months of the war, while all the horrors of unpreparedness and all the chaos of unorganization robbed the wounded and dying of any chance of saving their lives or mitigating their sufferings. During this awful time Mr. Toland gave himself to every task that needed brains or muscle in helping to care for the wounded, at first in the Majestic Hotel Hospital in Paris and later with the Harjes Ambulance Corps at Ricquebourg and at Montdidier. During this time he served in many capacities: cook, ward-maid, nurse and assistant surgeon, sleeping little and working with tremendous energy, spurred on by the patient endurance and the sufferings of the wounded whom he served.

Finally, as the work of nursing the wounded became properly organized and Mr. Toland found himself relegated to a single office, that of chauffeur of an ambulance, he was able to withdraw his vision from

the horrors of his first days and get some sort of general outlook on the outcome of the war.

America has been prodigal of assistance to the sufferers of the war; but though she has poured money in unceasing streams, she has done nothing so fine as this giving of individual service by her citizens.

SPEAKING OF OPERATIONS. By Irvin S. Cobb. George H. Doran Company. New York. Price 50 cents.

As an antidote to a long and continuous course of the serious side of nursing, nothing could surpass Irvin Cobb's "perfectly painless" narrative of his own experience in the operating room and the hospital.

Besides a completely renovated body, Mr. Cobb appears to have brought away from the hospital a great big asset, to wit, a topic of never failing interest in general conversation and of considerable value as material wherewith to build a book which shall not only lure half dollars from the public, but will buck up timorous souls who have to face the experience which he has so delightfully turned to profit for himself and his publisher.

DIET FOR CHILDREN. By Louise E. Hogan. Author of *How to Feed Children*, *A Study of a Child*, *The Introduction of Domestic Science in the Schools of New York City*, U. S. Government Bulletin No. 56, *Timely Hints for Mothers and Nurses*, *The Child in Sickness and Health*, etc. Bobbs Merrill Company. Indianapolis, Ind. Price 75 cents.

The sub-title of this book is its best description: "A complete system of nursery diet, with numerous receipts; also many menus for young and older school children. A home and school guide for mothers, teachers, nurses and physicians." No question presents more difficulty in the safe-guarding of childhood than diet. The mean between foolish and criminal indulgence and a diet restricted to monotony seems to be hard to find. Mrs. Hogan's book tends to clear away much of this difficulty and to make the task at once easier for parents and guardians and more acceptable to children.

She makes a point of early educating the palate. A common error is to teach a child to like, and later, crave, sweets and unwholesome foods, thus the taste is perverted from those articles of diet which are of most value to nutrition. Another point is care in the selection and preparation of food. Oatmeal porridge and cream, when it is properly prepared and served, is a dish for kings, but served as at the school where Jane Eyre and her schoolmates turned from it in disgust, it is only fit for animals.